

## COMMANDER'S CONNECTION



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Pintar

(Left to right) Col. Sam Angelella meets with Talmadge Tobias, Sumter City Manager, Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Williams, 20th Fighter Wing Command Chief, and the Honorable Joseph McElveen Jr., Sumter Mayor, at a ceremony for the 55th Fighter Squadron's return from Operation Northern Watch Wednesday.

"Commander's Connection" is a direct link between Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community.

Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at 895-4611 or e-mailed to [commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil](mailto:commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil).

Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in *The Shaw Spirit*.

**Q** I am concerned about the condition of one of the newer dorms. In my bathroom, there is mold completely covering the vent and it's starting to cover the ceiling as well. I have noticed it in other airmen's dorm rooms also, and I was wondering if anything is going to be done to fix this health hazard.

**A** We are happy to report your problem has a simple solution. Due to the potential of mold buildup in any bathroom, dormitory residents must use a mildew remover with bleach every one to two weeks; residents are responsible for purchasing their own cleaning products. Per Shaw Air Force Base Phamphlet 32-113, *Unaccompanied Housing Brochure*, bathrooms must be cleaned on a weekly basis. We're also looking at long-term solutions to solve this persistent problem.

# A fighter pilot's salute

By "Cruiser"  
8th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron

**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM** – As we stand trained and ready to execute the decisions of our president, many thoughts are focused on loved ones at home. It is their support that gives us the confidence and moral strength to carry out our duties and hurry home.

That support began giving us strength even before we left the flightline.

The night we deployed, we were overwhelmed by those who were there to see us off. Our entire sister squadron and their maintenance counterpart worked 24 hours a day for three straight days to provide us with the best F-117s to take into the battle. Thanks to them, we were able to focus our thoughts on our families and loved ones in preparation for our call to duty.

My crew chiefs strapped me into their aircraft as I prepared to take it to war. Airman 1st Class Thomas Cook wished me "Good luck, sir" and Staff Sgt. Paul Wyatt said, "Be safe, sir, and hurry back. Now go make history." Their comments and actions conveyed their pride in what they do, and I was just as proud of them.

We heard a sister squadron commander's voice, as we prepared to taxi, wishing us "Happy hunting and God speed," from all his troops. Those powerful words proved our fellow airmen wanted to be right there with us.

My first sight as I taxied out of the hangar was that of an entire row of maintenance troops lined up in formation along the canyon taxiway. As I taxied by, they saluted in unison, beaming with pride. The highest rank I saw out there was a staff sergeant. I knew I was sitting in the best product they had to offer. They gave us a first-class launch that night.

Further down the canyon, our spouses and families lined the left side of the taxiway. Amidst the group of proud waves and blowing kisses, we focused on making eye contact one last time, which we knew had to last us for months. Emotions ran high on both sides of the cockpit glass.

The next salute was from our wing commander, standing alone at attention in front of his staff car. As we left the lit canyon area, his long, proud, unwavering salute sent us off to battle as if to say, "Do well men, and return home safe."

Rounding the corner to the runway, we taxied by our operations group commander, his deputy and their wives. Their salutes told us, "go forth and do

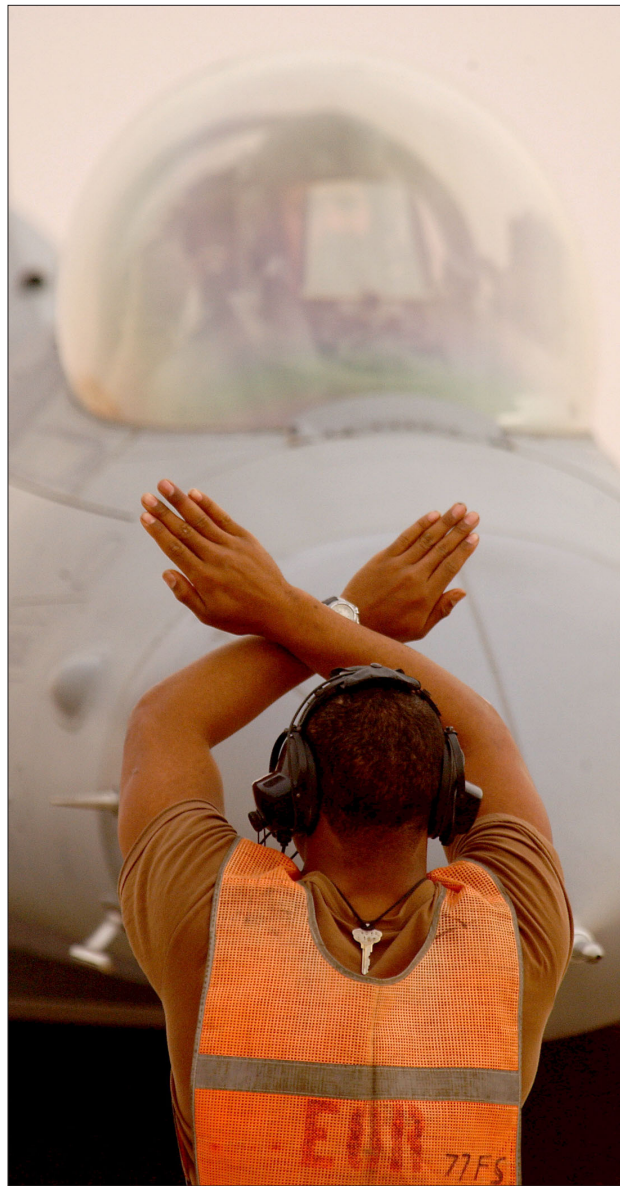


Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Hannen

**Airman 1st Class Desmond Lyles, a Shaw 77th Fighter Squadron crew chief deployed with the 363rd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, communicates with an F-16CJ pilot in preparation for a sortie March 27.**

what you are trained to do" and "I would do anything to be there with you." The four of them followed us to the runway, where the commander spoke to each pilot individually through the headset, personally launching us on our journey.

As we took the runway and blasted off into the night, I saw the flash of the cameras and felt the weight of the stares of all the friends and families gathered there to see us off into the darkness. I could sense our loved one's thoughts and prayers as we disappeared from sight. It is those thoughts and prayers I ask from all of you now. See you soon.

## The Shaw Spirit

### Shaw Air Force Base editorial staff

Col. Sam Angelella.....20th Fighter Wing commander

Maj. Lisa Caldwell.....Public Affairs chief

Staff Sgt. Stacy Simon .....Internal Information chief  
[simon.stacy@shaw.af.mil](mailto:simon.stacy@shaw.af.mil)

Staff Sgt. Lee Watts.....Editor  
[spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil](mailto:spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil)

Tech. Sgt. Chuck Hinrichs.....Staff writer  
[hinrichs.otha@shaw.af.mil](mailto:hinrichs.otha@shaw.af.mil)

Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash.....Staff writer  
[alicia.prakash@shaw.af.mil](mailto:alicia.prakash@shaw.af.mil)

Adriene Dicks.....Correspondent  
[adriene.dicks@shaw.af.mil](mailto:adriene.dicks@shaw.af.mil)

Information intended for the *The Shaw Spirit* must be submitted the Thursday the week prior of intended publication. Direct e-mail correspondence to [spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil](mailto:spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil) or mail to:

20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

517 Lance Ave., Suite 107

Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. 29152-5041

*The Shaw Spirit* is published by the Camden Media Co., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 20th Fighter Wing.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of *The Shaw Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DoD, the Air Force or the Camden Media Co., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The 20th Fighter Wing commander and public affairs office are the determining authority as to whether a particular item will appear and its placement within the paper.

All copy submitted will be edited to conform to Air Force and local policy and style standards. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

Direct all classified advertising to Camden Media Co. at (800) 450-1437 or fax (803) 432-7609. All are run on a space-available basis.

Classified ads may also be e-mailed to [skaress@ci-camden.com](mailto:skaress@ci-camden.com) or dropped off at *The Shaw Spirit* office in Bldg. 1122.



# Explaining war to child helps parent understand

**By Capt. Mary Harper**  
*20th Logistics Readiness Squadron operations officer*

When my daughter and I were talking the other day, she suddenly grew very quiet and solemn and asked, “Does daddy have to go away to fight in the war? Why can’t someone else go?” And above all else, “Will he be safe and come back home?”

Our policy has always been to answer our children truthfully and honestly, and my answer to her was, “Because that’s his job.”

Yet, that answer didn’t quite cut it. How does one answer a question like that? How do we explain war to children, neighbors and families?

I grew up in a military family, and my father was often away. Somehow, I just came to understand it was part of his job. At that time, military conflicts seemed so far away. As I became older, I began to understand the purpose of the military and how important serving in the military is to our country.

As I explained to my daughter about the military and its purpose, I found I had some hard thinking to do myself.

After Sept. 11, 2001, there was a great tide of patriotism. There were many people waving flags, making speeches and pledging support for the country.

Now, here we are, less than two years after, and many of the ardent supporters with their flags have grown silent. However, we the members of the military and our families are still here and will go where we are asked to go and do what needs to be done.

Being a member of the armed forces is about service to our country. It is about giving of yourself to something that is larger than you. The

**The liberty we enjoy comes with a heavy cost; the blood of the innocent, the brave and the selfless.**

**To the enemies of freedom, the value we place on life appears to be our weakness. It is, in fact, our strength.**

**So, to those who defile peace and wage war upon our nation, know that we are coming. You may not hear us, you may not see us, but we are coming. It is only then that you will feel the strength of our resolve. May God have mercy on your souls.**



Graphic by Kevin Brawley

nation’s military is an all-volunteer force. No one is here who didn’t volunteer, sign the dotted line and take an oath of service. Today, there is enough information in the media about the military – how it’s run, expectations and the responsibilities they expect. I find it truly amazing to read that because of the conflict and ongoing deployments, some people look for ways to get out of their commitments. Thankfully, this is not the case for the overwhelming majority of the military.

It is up to members of the military to stand up and be leaders in protecting our country, our freedoms and the values we all share. As leaders, we heed the call to serve, and we serve by going where we are asked to go, accomplishing the assigned mission and, if necessary, making personal

sacrifices – long hours, time away from home and family and sometimes the ultimate sacrifice of giving our lives.

Around the country, some call for a smaller military with smaller budgets, while at the same time they want equality and freedom for everyone around the globe. It’s clear to me, they don’t understand the price to maintain freedom here at home and to spread freedom abroad.

While all Americans are entitled to their opinions, I often wonder if they would be allowed to express their thoughts and feelings if the military were not around to ensure our country remains a place respectful of individual rights and freedoms. I read an interesting quote the other day that brought to mind some of the actors, actresses and others in the entertain-

ment industry whose only connection with the military is a sound stage.

Author G.K. Chesterton said, “Let us clear ourselves of this suffocating modern superstition about eminent individuals. Great names do not necessarily mean great intellects.”

To me, this drives home the greatness of this country as people from all parts of society can state their opinions, even when those opinions, have no real understanding of liberties afforded them by a strong military.

So, now I answer my daughter’s questions, “Yes, daddy will go to war because he is answering a call to serve and to ensure your future remains bright and safe, and we will say prayers for him and other military men and women while he is gone and trust God to bring him home safely.”



**Meghan, 10-year-old daughter of Kristine and Staff Sgt. James Wilson.**

“I like it because I get an ID card now instead of waiting until I get my license, and my dad gets to help the world by making it a better place.”

## KID ON THE STREET

*“What’s the best part of being in a military family?”*



**Alex, 6-year-old son of Tiffany and Staff Sgt. Michael Oliver.**

“Seeing different parts of the world.”



**Justin, 8-year-old son of Staff Sgt. Lorraine Badgett.**

“I like getting to make new friends.”



**Miranda, 7-year-old daughter of 2nd Lts. Robert and Stephanie Stults.**

“I like the Youth Center the most. They have a great playground, computers, and there’s great friends.”